

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2011**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 21, 2011  
Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 12, 2011
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Official Correspondence
- VI. Visitor Presentations
  - A. General Public
  - B. Employee Organizations
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - A. Recognition of the September 2011 Employees of the Month
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Adoption of Consent Agenda
    1. Report on Personnel Transactions
    2. Declaration of Technology Equipment Listed as Surplus Property and Authorization to Dispose of Technology Equipment Pursuant to Education Code
  - B. Approval of Contracts
  - C. Authorization to Submit Grant Applications/Service Contracts and Accept Funding if Awarded; and Approval of Contracts, Positions, and Other Expenditures Associated with the Grants as Outlined in the Proposed Budgets
    1. \$25,000 Two-Year Kindergarten Planning and Implementation Guide grant from the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) for the period June 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011
  - D. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 11-15 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Juvenile Court Schools)
  - E. Determination of Whether to Hold a Saturday Board Retreat and/or Board Study Sessions
  - F. Adoption of Resolution No. 11-16 – Supporting the California School Boards Association's (CSBA) Effort to Repeal Problematic Provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 114
- IX. Board Reports, Comments, and Ideas
  - A. Board Members
  - B. Board President
  - C. Committees
- X. Items for Distribution
  - A. August/September Events
  - B. August/September Visits
- XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings
  - A. September 6, 2011 – Year In Review

B. September 20, 2011 – Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

XII. Adjournment

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I. President Cooley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the David P. Meaney Education Center, Sacramento County Office of Education, 10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, California. Board members present were Greg Geeting, Brian Rivas, Brian Cooley, Harold Fong, Eleanor Brown, John Scribner, and Jackie Levy. Also present were David Gordon, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent; Teresa Stinson, General Counsel; Robin Pierson, Tammy Sanchez, Tim Taylor, and John Fleischman, Assistant Superintendents; Judy Holsinger, SELPA Executive Director; Effie Crush, Chief Administrator-Human Resources; Tim Herrera, Director of Communications; Gary Barker, SCOETA; Bill Mullen, CSEA; other staff and visitors; and Carla Miller, Recording Secretary.

II. Trustee Rivas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. On a motion by Mr. Geeting and seconded by Mr. Rivas, the revised minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2011 and the revised minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2011 were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Mr. Scribner moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Levy seconded the motion, which carried.

V. There was no official correspondence.

VI.A. There were no requests for visitor presentations from the general public.

VI.B. Gary Barker, SCOETA President, acknowledged and congratulated President Cooley and Vice President Geeting as new officers of the Board. He shared his appreciation for the hard work of administration and the entire organization, in particular the Personnel Department, for the hard work to bring most of our teachers back to work. It's been a very difficult time. A lot of our staff have had challenges to deal with. He is very pleased that for the most part folks have returned to work. We have some outstanding issues and problems to deal with, but he is confident that we can overcome those in making sure the new community school model is effective and works for us as we move forward. He thanked the Board, welcomed the new officers and stated he is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Board in this coming school year.

VII.A. Wayne Robinson, Lead Behavior Management Technician, Special Education Department, was recognized and honored as the classified employee of the month for September.

Kevin Jordan, Nursery, Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Teacher, ROP, was recognized and honored as the certificated employee of the month for September.

Superintendent Gordon reported on the following:

- Invited the Board to join us Friday, August 26, 2011 when we launch the 2011-2012 year with our annual Employee Recognition Day at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. We will honor staff for years of service to the County Office, recognize retirees, honor Employees of the Month, and introduce SCOE's Teacher of the Year 2012 – Ben Diaz. The event begins at 8:30 a.m.
- The Teacher of the Year banquet will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel. Please make special note that the event will be held at the Radisson – not the Hilton. We will be honoring the 15 local district Teachers of the Year and announcing the two county Teachers of the Year.
- Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 14, 2011. We will hold Back to School Night at the Palmiter and Hickey campuses beginning at 6:00 p.m. It's a great opportunity to meet staff, students and parents. Please join us if you can.
- Personally thanked members of the Nor-Cal Woodturners Chapter, who teacher Kevin Jordan referred to earlier. They have been volunteering their time and equipment to teach students at Palmiter the craft of woodturning and carving. He also thanked Trustee Rivas for finding this group so that our students could connect with them. The volunteers provide the lathes, tools, and materials at no cost to make beautiful wood products. He also wanted to thank KCRA TV because the station will be featuring our students in this program during the public affairs broadcast called "Common Ground" on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. We will be bringing the Woodturners before the Board to be recognized at an upcoming meeting.
- CCSESA has announced the appointment of Peter Birdsall as its new Executive Director, replacing Sue Burr who went to work for the governor. For 30 years, Mr. Birdsall has held leadership positions in education consulting and advocacy. He has served as the lead consultant for the Education Coalition and the Chief of the Governmental Affairs Office for CDE as well as having his own consulting lobbying firm for many years. He begins with CCSESA on September 1, 2011.
- The Fortune Charter school will be opening on schedule tomorrow with 181 students which are quite a few more than anticipated. Our oversight monitoring consultant has been hard at work with them and will be providing a full status report on the program as it gets under way.

VIII.A. Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Geeting seconded adoption of the consent agenda. Motion carried unopposed. By such action, the Board:

1. Accepted report on Personnel Transactions

2. Declared technology equipment as Surplus Property and authorized staff to dispose technology equipment pursuant to Education Code

VIII.B. Mr. Rivas moved and Mr. Geeting seconded approval of the contracts as listed. Motion to approve the contracts carried unopposed.

VIII.C. On a motion by Ms. Levy, seconded by Mr. Geeting and carried, the Board authorized staff to submit grant applications/service contracts and accept funding if awarded; and approved contracts, positions, and other expenditures associated with the grants as outlined in the proposed budgets as follows:

1. \$25,000 Two-Year Kindergarten Planning and Implementation Guide grant from the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) for the period June 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011

VIII.D. President Cooley opened the Public Hearing on the determination of textbooks and/or instructional materials sufficiency pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Juvenile Court Schools) at 6:58 p.m. No one came forward. President Cooley closed the Public Hearing at 6:59 p.m.

Tim Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, provided background information.

Mr. Geeting moved and Mr. Scribner seconded adoption of the revised Resolution No. 11-15 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119. Motion carried unopposed.

VIII.E. Determination of Whether to Hold a Saturday Board Retreat and/or Board Study Sessions.

President Cooley stated that the committee determined that it would be a good idea to have Board study sessions in lieu of a Board retreat. CSEA President Bill Mullen brought it to the committee's attention via letter that expenditures of this type would not be appreciated. A few other Board members individually reached out to him suggesting study sessions on a regular Board meeting night in lieu of a Board retreat. There was a discussion on this in the Executive Committee prior to this meeting. The recommendation and consensus was to conduct four study sessions to be held on the second Board meeting of each month, on topics to be determined. It may be more of an open conversation with staff, cabinet, members of the public, and Board members. The initial topic might be Entrepreneurial Opportunities for SCOE related to our budget or different programs. We would determine other items throughout the year. This would be in place of a one-time annual Board retreat with a facilitator. That was the Executive Committee's recommendation for discussion.

Mr. Scribner said we had this discussion a couple of years ago about relegating the second Board meeting of the month to reports and other discussions and at that time the Board was reluctant to do it. It would basically force more items onto the first monthly agenda, which might discourage a further deliberative debate on those items.

It sounds like that is where we are heading under this proposal. He stated that if the Board wants to hold study sessions, the sessions should not be scheduled in lieu of regular Board meeting dates.

President Cooley pointed out that there would only be four study sessions. They would be held once per quarter; during the other months, the second monthly meeting could still be a combination of Board report and/or business as we have been doing.

Mr. Rivas asked what would have been the cost or the range we were looking at if we had had a retreat in the format we had last year with a facilitator.

Superintendent Gordon replied that the estimates we received from potential facilitators were in the range of \$1,500 – \$5,000.

President Cooley added there are also food costs. He asked if we pay staff to show up for a Saturday meeting. Superintendent Gordon replied no, but you might want to feed them. They don't get overtime.

Mr. Rivas asked if we were looking at about \$5,000 for facilitator and food.

President Cooley replied that the comments he got from Board members were not just about the financial aspect of it but also the utilization of the Board's time as well. That was part of the discussion at the Executive Committee. Mr. Mullen made a good point at that meeting that SCOE just went through an excruciating period where employees had to take pay reductions and in some cases their positions were eliminated altogether. In that climate, even if it was only \$5,000, we should find another way to achieve the same thing and save money.

Mr. Rivas asked aside from the facilitator and the food what else would we have been spending money on. He asked what else could be eliminated in order to hold a cheaper version of the same format.

President Cooley said last year Mr. Geeting served as the facilitator.

Superintendent Gordon said another alternative would be to use one of our senior staff members as the facilitator rather than hire someone else.

Mr. Rivas said the reason he asked is because he enjoyed last year's retreat. He pointed out that at that time he was still brand new and getting to know everyone and learning about the organization, as he still is. He was looking forward to the retreat again this year. He feels frustrated at times because when he looks around the Board table, he sees a lot of talent and a lot of talent in Cabinet and he's not convinced that we are all working in concert as much as we could be. He's had individual conversations with some of you about how to get on the same page and pull in the same direction. Mr. Fong talked about the need for a strategic plan. Others have said that we have to put our heads together and figure out how we are going to get resources to do whatever it is we decide we want to work together on. He's a little disappointed that we seemed to be headed in the direction of not having a retreat in the regular format. He's okay

with that, but he wanted to share some thoughts about why he was looking forward to it and why he thought it would be beneficial.

Ms. Brown said she echoed Mr. Rivas' sentiments. She came from a different point of view when thinking about the retreat. The retreats she has attended in the past have been very helpful to her as a participating member of that particular group, as opposed to gaining a knowledge base on a program or something. It was a knowledge base of how she could better contribute, how to better understand other points of view on the Board and how those could be expressed in coming to a conclusion. She has good feelings about a well-run retreat. She was looking at potential retreat topics and she came across some CSBA materials about how a board member can contribute to the community and how we can truly be open about our programs and what we really do in an aggressive kind of way. Not to wait for people to come to our Board meetings but to meet with other community groups and talk about what the Board does and the importance of that particular level. She thought they had good information or suggestions on what one can talk about as a group and how you function to maximum potential as a member of that group. She is also a little disappointed at the prospect of no retreat because every year there is new information about what is happening in our community, what the trends are, what our responsibility might be to go out into the community and talk about financial problems and why we're doing what we are doing and how we are trying to compensate for that. She thinks what's said here doesn't always get out to the public. That is just one example of something at a retreat that she thought would have been helpful to her.

President Cooley stated that no decisions have been made.

Ms. Levy said she would have been willing to give up a Saturday. She thinks the study sessions are a good opportunity to learn and get a lot out on the table. Her recollection of last year's meeting was that not everyone was there or at least not everyone was there the whole time. She respects that people have calendar conflicts, but attendance at Board meetings tends to be very good. She likes the proposed idea about study sessions. She thinks four quarterly sessions would be good, and won't totally take over our Board meetings. If we feel like we need a full day retreat maybe we could plan something like that later on in the year.

President Cooley stated that with the comments from Trustees Brown, Rivas, and Scribner, maybe we could do two study sessions per year. He sees the benefits of what all Trustees are saying. Just because meetings are not held on a Saturday doesn't mean they have to be retreats. We could still do them on a Tuesday night – four per year. There was even a discussion of more than four.

Mr. Fong said there is a Board budget and whether its \$2,000, \$3,000 or \$5,000 spent on the retreat, it's budgeted in our budget and if we don't spend it, it will go somewhere else. Most of the Board members have made sacrifices and contributions one way or another by giving back salaries, health benefits, and other things. We made the sacrifices just as much as everybody else has. His goal was to look at a way to put together a strategic plan for the Board and county office with input from everybody so that we can move in a direction in which we all agree and be able to explain to the

public our visions and goals for the education community in Sacramento County. If we do everything in house, we don't have the benefit of an outside point of view. It would be money well-spent to bring in an outsider to look at what we do and look at how we can do things better. At least we would have the benefit of bringing someone in to help plan what we will do when the economy gets better. For us, the funding cycle is down and we should take advantage of outlining things that we would do if we had the money, so when the money does come around, we have already made the partnerships and relationships with the community to put that together rather than starting from scratch. He thinks there is benefit in having the retreat as long as we have a purpose. He senses we are going through the same motions but don't have a central focus of why we are doing it. Then we can get on to the business of using a Board facilitator or holding a retreat versus study sessions to get there.

President Cooley asked if that was a motion, and if so, to give a condensed version.

Mr. Fong said he would like to know the reason why we are having this retreat or Board study session and place a goal of having a strategic plan at the end of it.

Mr. Geeting said if he were to make a motion it would be in support of the plan outlined by President Cooley, which was to have a series of study sessions and not a Saturday retreat. Out of respect for his colleagues, he's not going to make that motion right now in case somebody else wants to make a different motion.

Mr. Rivas said he doesn't feel strongly about the format. He feels strongly about trying to take up the topic of teambuilding and working toward common goals. He thinks that can happen in study sessions and he wants to be mindful of costs just like everyone else. But he would like a conversation on how we can work together to maximize our combined talents.

Ms. Brown said she would agree with that. She is less concerned about the format. She is fine with study sessions. She is interested in the content of the time we spend.

President Cooley said part of the recommendation— if we did say four per year or even two per year - is that the content would be flushed out as we discuss more details. The superintendent suggested during the Executive Committee meeting that the first session could be on Entrepreneurial Opportunities. He suggested this because we had already had one detailed study session on charter schools and one on community schools related to our budget. If we can go back to rehash those particular subjects in September or October, we have a broader discussion point and can bring actual elements and staff into that agenda. He's also mindful of Trustee Scribner's point of not skirting our regular Board attention on key issues, which is why he felt two or four per year was appropriate. He reminded the Board that they have a County Committee meeting at 7:15 p.m. If there's a motion that Trustee Geeting would like to entertain we could move forward or come back to this after the County Committee business. His recommendation is to come back to this and reorder the agenda slightly to have the County Committee hearing take place now. We will wrap that up and come back to Items VIII.D. and VIII.F. and the rest of the agenda.

Mr. Scribner moved to recess the meeting of the Board of Education. Ms. Levy seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

The Board meeting was recessed at 7:20 p.m. to conduct the meeting of the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization.

The Board meeting was reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

President Cooley said we can pick up where we left off on Item VIII.E. regarding Board study sessions. The proposal was that we schedule four Board study sessions per year; one per quarter, with the first being a discussion on Entrepreneurial Opportunities which the county office of education can pursue. We leave it to staff to narrow it down to three or four opportunities. We would have an open ended discussion on a Tuesday in September or October, probably the second meeting of the month. Subsequent topics could be determined at the end of that study session in September or October. That was the Executive Committee's recommendation. Those items would be presented by staff so we would not hire a facilitator. Dr. Pierson will make some brownies and bring them in to save some money.

Ms. Brown moved that rather than utilizing the Saturday retreat process, we substitute four study sessions that would include the recommendation of the entrepreneurial ideas as well as the ideas related to Board member participation and including but not limited to teambuilding. Mr. Scribner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII.F. Adoption of Resolution No. 11-16 – Supporting the California School Boards Association's (CSBA) Effort to Repeal Problematic Provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 114.

President Cooley asked Trustee Geeting to present background information first and then we will entertain a motion.

Mr. Geeting reported that he asked to place an item on the agenda concerning the CSBA's call for all boards to join in their effort related to the repeal of problematic aspects of AB 114, including those related to reinterpretation of the Proposition 98 Guarantee and the provisions related to layoff dates and the mandatory use of certain budget assumptions in the adoption of local budgets. The resolution contained in the Board packet does that. He thinks it is faithful to the letter that was developed by Martha Fluor, the current president of CSBA.

Mr. Rivas stated he would like to hear Trustee Scribner's point of view. His impression is that this is a fluid situation where discussions were going on in his office as late as today about what to do about the problems presented by the trailer bill which this resolution speaks to. He knows also that there is a point of view out there that it's unlikely that we will get any kind of legislative relief and changes or clean up languages so colleagues should know that in adopting this resolution. Speaking as himself and not on behalf of CSBA, he thinks this is a mostly symbolic gesture on our part; commenting on what we think about what the legislature did in AB 114. He is happy to vote or move for the resolution because he disagrees with the bill and is concerned about the

precedent that was set by the legislature adopting language requiring districts to adopt a budget with faulty revenue assumptions and then legally prohibits districts from doing the right thing and managing their budgets. It's very concerning to him. He's happy to move and vote for this resolution but he also thinks that the business officials and the county superintendents are doing some good work to actually help districts figure out a way to manage these constraints. He reiterated that he is happy to move the resolution.

Mr. Scribner said he wanted to add some points and again he is speaking for himself not being an employee. Having watched that day when this measure came up, it was the last of the trailer bills from that evening, but it was the last of the main trailer bills following the adoption of the budget. The Senate and Assembly were both sitting around waiting for this language from counsel. This language did not go from counsel to committees for review or comment. It didn't go for any public comment. There was no public review. This language went from legislative counsel to the desk and the senators were seeing it for the first time as the roll was being started and this language was being dropped on their desks. That's just a very rough way to run a deliberative body which is responsible for some very important decisions. He understands the concept of interest group advocacy and if he were CTA, he would have done the same thing to protect his members, but this creates one hellacious gamble in that if these revenues don't turn around and we're telling these districts to spend money as if they have it that come the next fiscal year these districts are going to be in a hole so deep and the cuts are going to be so broad they will lose more employees and teachers in order to recover the shortfall. It's kind of what we wind up doing with the budget when we delay it every time. We have fewer months in which to recover the shortfall. Hits on education are not limited to just tier two of the two tiers set up in AB 121, which is the one that set up the tier triggers. Should revenues fall below more than a billion but less than two billion there are about a series of ten cuts set up on this first tier. A number of those are going to affect K-12 in terms of grants and contracts that come from CSU or UC. The child care that is run through the state department of education, all state libraries, and developmental services are being impacted to the tune of \$32 million. He doesn't know of anyone who is saying we are going to avoid triggering tier one cuts. We are already about \$400 million short according to the department of finance. Any one of our wealthy Californians that we rely on so heavily in this state are selling stock into a declining market so their quarterlies are not going to be great news for finance. In addition, in the second tier, for which there are an additional series of cuts if revenues fall by more than \$2 billion, with the way it is worded the measures are going to fall hugely on classified employees. There is a \$278 million hit in the elimination of the home to school transportation program, which are classified employees. The other one, because of the way the language is constructed on the furlough provisions on the seven days, the protections are limited to certificated personnel. The classifieds do not have the same protections that require administration to negotiate with them on cut backs like certificated employees do under AB 114. The classifieds are really going to take the hit, but maybe not as much for SCOE because we don't have a transportation program. On the traditional K-12's, they're going to take hits in a number of those areas where they do the child care and are funded by the state department of education where they do have transportation. Then if we have to go the seven days of furlough, they don't have those same protections. This means even worse outcomes for students. Our classified employees and others that don't enjoy the same protection are where the fall is going to

hit until that next fiscal year when the teachers will have gambled on their positions. That's the real problem with this; we have really put out a hell of a gamble that revenues are going to improve by telling districts to spend the money as if you had it or as if it was going to be a stable source. There are no guarantees and in fact so far the revenues to date and the fed report there are projecting at best a stable economy.

Ms. Brown commented that the "sign now and read later" approach is dangerous. She is not sure if everyone knew what was in this bill when it was signed and that's the trouble. People didn't read it and just voted it in regardless of who it helped and didn't help.

President Cooley said he supports this resolution and CSBA's efforts to repeal the various provisions of this bill. His big issue is that the state basically told sovereignly-elected school boards how to conduct their fiscal house in an irresponsible manner. This is the "solve the issue today and not worry about tomorrow" fashion that the state has used for the last ten years.

Mr. Rivas moved and Ms. Levy seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 11-16 – Supporting the California School Boards Association's Effort to Repeal Problematic Provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 114. Motion carried unopposed.

IX.A. Ms. Levy reported she feels very strongly about this resolution and she thanks Trustee Geeting for bringing it forward. She was very concerned at this last minute, middle of the night manner in which this bill was handled. She thanked Superintendent Gordon for an excellent letter to the District Superintendents regarding fiscal procedures during these contradictory budget times. She also thanked Assistant Superintendent Tammy Sanchez for an excellent letter. She is pleased to know that our Leadership Institute has been recognized and that we can now award administrative credentials; she thanked Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent, for her part in this. She is happy to recommend that program to promising teachers that she knows who she thinks should go for their administrative credentials. She will be attending the California County Board of Education (CCBE) meeting in Monterey. She's looking forward to it.

Mr. Scribner reported he had the pleasure of attending a function celebrating community oriented individuals in Elk Grove: the Albanis who were celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Bob Trigg and Dr. Winlock were in attendance. Kay Albani serves with his wife on the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) board.

Ms. Brown reported that the Curriculum Committee met and the recommendation is to support the Edge series for the intervention program. The Board will receive it on September 6, 2011. She pointed out that in that process the books will be in the Superintendent's office for your review. We, as a committee, thought this process was very inclusive, very thorough, and the things that they look for pertain very specifically to the needs of our students. The program was piloted for six weeks in each of the schools and the committee was assured that it was the right program and would meet needs on both ends of the scale as well as for Special Education students. They've checked to make certain that all the standards are addressed. There is a pacing guide that was developed and staff training will be provided. She thinks that the process is a

very, very good one and they did an excellent job with that. She reiterated that tomorrow is the first day of the Fortune Charter School. She thinks it will be very interesting to see that. She apologized because she will miss important events that SCOE puts on while she is away.

Mr. Geeting reported that on July 13 he joined Trustee Levy in listening to Wendy Kopp, founder and CEO of Teach for America (TFA). In 2010-11, there were 8,000 TFA teachers working in 39 US cities and regions, and a total last year of 20,000 TFA alumni working in different places in the United States with about half of them continuing in the field of education. One of the terms she liked to use was that the objective of TFA is to change the academic trajectory of the students in communities with economic disadvantage. He thought it was a very powerful idea. She used herself as an example of one who was from a fairly well to do community and she was on a strong academic trajectory almost regardless of the teaching that she had, but kids who are from economic disadvantage don't have that and they need that academic trajectory raised. It was a very good point. On July 19, it was a pleasure to join Trustee Levy for a refresher training course here at SCOE for the 2011-12 LINKS mentorship program. He believes he can speak for himself and Trustee Levy in saying that we very much appreciate the terrific work of our staff in the Prevention and Student Services Department. We look forward to a continued positive experience for both mentors and protégées alike in the coming year. On Saturday, July 23, he was able to watch presentations by the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) summer camp participants. Thirteen high school students (incoming seniors) did a terrific job, and will be tremendous ambassadors for the ACE program in their high schools and communities. He'd like to express appreciation to our own Tim Taylor and the other members of the ACE governing board who decided to invest in the summer camp. He thinks it's a very solid, forward-thinking kind of decision that will promote a lot of interest in these critical career pathways. On July 28, he took a trip up to Sly Park and spent a few hours with the staff and youth at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's summer camp. The youth were really enjoying themselves, and the MDA Executive Director and staff were particularly appreciative. They went overboard in appreciation for the Sly Park staff and the excellent assistance and support that they received up there. The Sly Park principal, Phil Romig, was on vacation while he was up there, but he wants all of you to know that as he walked around he picked up some wayward pieces of trash that were floating around the site and placed them in the proper trash receptacle and thought of Phil as he did that. He's sure that Phil would be proud! On August 4, Assistant Superintendent Joyce Wright was kind enough to allow him to be an observer during the final morning of the three-day Summer Institute Training here at SCOE for the Sacramento Countywide Bullying Prevention Project. An outstanding presenter, Amy Walker from the Committee for Children, was presenting on the "Steps to Respect" program. The summer institute participants were certainly very interested and very motivated, and many of them had specific bullying issues they brought from their school sites to work on at the institute. The new Elverta Superintendent Mike Borgaard, who had attended on an earlier day of the summer institute and who just happened to be out here at SCOE the same morning that Mr. Geeting was out here, made a point of talking to him about the summer institute. Superintendent Borgaard said the part he attended included activities that he was not actually "predisposed" to like, but he felt that an

excellent job was done with the activities for this summer institute, and he found that the institute was exceptionally well run overall. Superintendent Borggaard's only real complaint was the cost. He would have liked to have sent a number of Elverta teachers but he just didn't have the budget to support it. This coming Friday we have the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Charter Schools Task Force meeting in West Sacramento at CSBA headquarters. We're looking forward to presentations and discussion from his colleague Brian Rivas regarding charter school legislation, and Stephanie Medrano Farland, who was formerly CSBA's senior policy consultant on charter schools. Ms. Farland will be addressing the larger picture of charter schools in the context of public education and best practices for charter authorizing. Tomorrow, as it has been mentioned several times here, we have the opening of the Fortune Charter school. It is his understanding and it's been confirmed by Superintendent Gordon that they will be opening with about 20 students above the target of 160 for the year. He was also informed that the school has received a start-up grant from the Walton Family Foundation for \$250,000. They were only one of five schools outside of Los Angeles County to be invited to apply for a Walton grant. He also understands that the teachers have now completed two weeks' worth of professional development covering instructional materials, school culture, campus safety, emergency procedures, and that the initial assessments have been completed on all the students. So the students will not be strangers as they enter the door tomorrow. The students are well known to the teachers and the administrators. And finally, you might have noticed in today's Bee, that the 2011 STAR results were released yesterday by State Superintendent Tom Torlakson. He took a look at results for two particular schools that might be of interest to us; one is the Hardy Brown College Prep Charter School in San Bernardino, which is also operated by Fortune; and PS 7 here in Sacramento. For a first-year school, he has to say Hardy Brown did quite well. You may recall that it started with a rather unusual arrangement of grades K through three, and grade six. It was a compromise that was agreed to with the authorizer, which is the San Bernardino City Unified School District. On average, 49 percent of the Hardy Brown students in the grades that were tested, and remember the state only tests grades two, three, and six in that particular arrangement, were proficient or advanced in English language arts, and 45 percent proficient or advanced in mathematics. By comparison (for just those same grade levels: 2, 3, and 6) the San Bernardino City schools had 34 percent proficient or advanced in language arts and 50 percent in mathematics. Before you conclude that the San Bernardino City schools seemed to be doing a better job in teaching mathematics, consider this fact: 107 students out of 111 tested at Hardy Brown were African American, whereas African American students comprised only 14 percent of the student body in the San Bernardino City schools. Like many large, urban districts, San Bernardino has a very significant achievement gap with African American students. For Hardy Brown, the percentages of African American students scoring proficient and advanced are essentially the same as for the school as a whole, because African American students comprise virtually all of the students. However the numbers are just slightly different: 48 percent proficient and advanced for language arts and 46 percent for mathematics. In San Bernardino the corresponding numbers are 28 percent for language arts and 39 percent for math. Hardy Brown got off to an excellent start. As for PS7, the school averaged 77 percent proficient or advanced in English language arts (and that's for grades K through 8 because the school is now built out completely); whereas Sacramento City Unified had 50 percent scoring proficient or advanced at the

same grade levels. For mathematics (grades 2-7), PS7 averaged 89 percent proficient or advanced. Sacramento City averaged 60 percent. For Algebra 1 (grade 8 only), there were 63 percent proficient or advanced at PS7, compared to 55 percent in Sacramento City. Now you might say that's pretty close, 63 percent and 55 percent, but remember this: in Sacramento City only half of the eighth graders took Algebra 1, the other half were in a lower level general math course. At PS7, all of the eighth graders took Algebra 1, except for six individual students and those six had already completed Algebra 1 and they took Geometry. If one were to compare African American students at PS7 (who comprise 80 percent of the students at PS7) and African American students in Sacramento City (who comprise about 15 percent of the students there), the difference would be substantially greater, given that Sacramento City has an absolutely staggering African American achievement gap and PS7 has virtually none.

President Cooley thanked Mr. Geeting.

Mr. Scribner said you might want to include AFDC income levels, and the education levels of the parents to make sure we are comparing apples to apples.

Mr. Geeting said PS7 is just about the same as Sacramento City Unified as regards the proportion of economically disadvantaged students.

Mr. Rivas thanked Tim Taylor and Tim Herrera for helping with the Woodturners program and with the KCRA coverage. He will tell everyone more about the program when we recognize them, but it exceeded his expectations. A retired couple came up to him at a meet and greet for Assemblymember Richard Pan when he was campaigning and said they wanted to help public schools. It turns out that the gentleman, Mr. Young, is the former President of the National Woodturners Guild. He brought his team in and they implemented a program that's very popular with the students and very successful. Mr. Rivas is looking forward to recognizing them at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Fong reported he attended the Personnel Commission and Curriculum Committee meetings today. He congratulated staff on getting accreditation for the administrative credential program. This brought him back to something else that he would like to ask about and has already asked about in the past. He doesn't know how we had the resources to go through an accreditation process for our administrative credential program, but he had asked about the possibility of an accreditation process for our court and community schools. Neither of those programs are accredited by WASC. If we had the resources to do our administrative program and our ROP program, he would like us to find the resources to get our court and community schools accredited. He had a call from an old friend of his that he hasn't seen for quite a number of years, Dr. Dennis Mah. Dr. Mah started a charter school, Bowling Green Charter School, a long time ago. He is now involved with the chartering of the Hmong Charter School. Dr. Mah called him up to let him know about some information about the school. He met Dr. Mah for lunch two days ago and Dr. Mah told him that the board and principal there are committed to a school that is open to every student regardless of race. And to prove that, he said that their school has a high percentage of African Americans and Mr. Fong was a bit surprised because he thought that the Hmong Charter School is 89 percent Hmong, but it's not. Dr. Mah was telling him that commitment was made even though it

was a Hmong Charter School it would be open to everybody. They did actively recruit in the community where the school is. In that community, the Lisbon school, there's a huge pocket of low income housing. They went there to recruit the students into that school. The community was hesitant at first but when they saw the individual attention that was given to students, they signed up in large numbers. He congratulated the Fortune School for opening up their school. He looks forward to hearing from the person that we hired to do the oversight of the Fortune Charter School. He asked again that we pay some specific attention to the requirement of the charter opening in a district that will reflect the diversity of the students of that district. In this particular case, the Sacramento County Board of Education's district. If PS7 is such a great school, he wished it was available for all students within the community in which it is located and not just for one particular group.

Ms. Brown said she thought the charter school is open to everyone.

Mr. Fong said they are open to everybody. He doesn't know until they actually reveal their outreach program and recruitment of kids. He's hoping that they recruited a diverse population.

Ms. Brown said we got a report on the recruiting activities of Fortune School. She thought it was last meeting or before.

Superintendent Gordon noted that Mr. Fong had asked for it and it was given to everyone.

Ms. Brown said she felt very comfortable with that. She's just asking if there's information that she doesn't know. It was a very intensive list of activities.

Mr. Fong said he is just waiting for the results of that activity. Tomorrow is the first day of school. He's going to request a breakdown of the population.

IX.B. President Cooley reported he will be at the opening of the Fortune Charter School. He looks forward to seeing all the students in the school. He hasn't seen the school yet. He thinks anytime you can exceed your number of students in this climate it's great. He wished them success.

Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent, clarified that the administrative program was approved by the CTC; that is not an accreditation process. We submitted our credentialing program; they reviewed it and decided whether or not we can award credentials.

President Cooley continued with his report that he will not be at Employee Recognition Day on August 26 as he will be out of town. Vice President Geeting will address everyone in his absence. He also welcomed everyone back to the new school year at SCOE and he hopes it will be a very successful year.

IX.C. There were no committee reports.

- X.A. There was no distribution of the August/September Events item.
- X.B. There was no distribution of the August/September Site Visits item.
- XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings:
  - A. September 6, 2011 – Year In Review
  - B. September 20, 2011 – Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- XII. Mr. Geeting moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Levy seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon  
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: September 6, 2011